



SUMMARY

Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Friday, July 10, 2026; 9 a.m.
Hybrid meeting: In-Person & Teams

Appointees Present: Josey Cline, Cameron Cohran, Ben Marosites, Joyce Rose-Harris, Julie Seel, Dave Voyles, Dennis Wiehl.

Appointees Absent: Gretchen Lambert, Bob Petrulis (excused).

Guests and Staff: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Brenda Krebs, Amy Rivera, Clint Shealy, Tameria Warren, Samantha Yager.

Chairman Cameron Cohran called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

June's Meeting Summary was approved.

By-Laws Update: Mary Pat reported that the HSEA Committee will consider the revision of by-laws at their August meeting.

Speaking Sustainability Update: In July, 946 people received the newsletter. There was a 35% open rate, which will increase as the month progresses. The link open rate was 4%; the most popular link was the link to energy conservation myths. There was a high bounce rate for this issue, likely addresses from the Earth Day additions and vacation replies, but Mary Pat will clean up the distribution list before the August issue. *(NOTE: Mary Pat initially reported a 40% bounce rate, but on a re-check, the actual bounce rate was a much lower 5%.)*

CPRG Grant Update: Mary Pat reported that the City had received the mini-grant reimbursement from the Central Midlands Council of Governments to offset expenses for the April Earth Day Climate Action Fair at Soda City.

CPAC Subgroups:

Smart Growth: Dennis Wiehl reported that there was no update, but the group will discuss the topic at the August Working Meeting on Friday, April 21.

Urban Farming: Dave Voyles reported that there will be a Bee City Committee meeting on Monday, June 13 at 3 p.m. in the Public Works Small Conference Room. Dave reported that they've had Bee City information tables at two events, and that the Committee will discuss a plan for participation in the Great SE Pollinator Census at the meeting. Julie Seel had previously mentioned doing something with the Columbia Fireflies since fireflies are pollinators. She offered to contact the Fireflies and discuss possible opportunities.

Assistant City Manager Clint Shealy provided the following Ready for 100 updates:

- Regarding an update on the energy audit, internal Program Manager David Marcus updated the HSEA Committee at their last meeting. He reported that there is no contract yet, as terms and conditions are still under review. The review is centered on the structure that best suits the City's goals.
- There is now a signed contract with CMTA to build the solar at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They were also able to cut a check for supplies so the City can still take advantage of the Inflation Reduction Act tax rebate. Construction will take 12 months, but with interconnection, it will likely be 15-18 months before we are able to use the power.
- The canal embankment repair work is on the street and has been advertised. We're probably six to eight weeks to opening bids for that work. This is an important milestone
- Construction started on the headgate replacement. There is a lot of pre-construction work going on now, and the equipment has been ordered.

Staff Updates:

Sustainability Facilitator Mary Pat Baldauf referred the group to a handout that she distributed. She noted a few things in particular:

CPAC Appointee nominations will be considered at the July 21 CPAC Meeting. Based on an analysis of council districts and nominee involvement, the following names were passed on:

- Sarah Kahn: CC District 4, former school teacher/current substitute teacher, environmental advocate and volunteer
- Betsy Newman: CC District 1, recommended by Bob Petrulis, longtime documentary and web producer for SCETV, environmental advocate and volunteer
- Tania Shelley: CC District 4, background in environmental services management, environmental advocate and volunteer.
- Dave Voyles: CC District 4, recommended for second term.
- Dennis Wiehl: CC District 3, recommended for second term.

She also reported that she designed a rack card for distribution at EdVenture Children's Museum featuring information about sustainability in the City and a QR code to subscribe to *Speaking Sustainability*. These will be produced in-house next week and should be on display by the latter part of July.

In closing, she mentioned that she had also been coordinating a Pavement Technology speaker for the August 7 meeting, and deferred to Robert Anderson for additional information.

Robert reported that Ken Holton from Pavement Technology Inc. would be presenting on an asphalt pavement rejuvenator that adds five years to the life of asphalt. The product also contains a titanium dioxide component that lowers the carbon from vehicles and lowers the temperature of the asphalt. The product is applied to new asphalt after 12 to 18 months. The City is hoping to use County Penny Tax money for a possible project, but the tax does not allow for the funding of a maintenance component, which includes rejuvenators. But we want to use it for the global warming impact, not necessarily to rejuvenate. Representatives from the county and SCDOT will also be attending.

Robert noted that in August, Public Works and Columbia Green is taking the 'stormwater lots' plan to the HSEA Committee for approval. The project, formally named 'Neighborhood Stormwater Greenspace Collaborative,' will turn flood lots into green spaces, but emphasis will be placed on reclamation of the space and stormwater benefits rather than emphasizing pollinators as not to get people alarmed about bees.

Sanitation Superintendent Samantha Yager had no formal remarks, but mentioned that the rising costs of petroleum is putting a squeeze on plastic recycling.

In new business/old business, the group briefly discussed:

The presentations from the July 19 Working Committee meeting. For those who missed the meeting, there is a summary available from the meeting.

Dennis mentioned a City housing report that was recently featured in Cola Today.

Julie asked if the CPAC meeting minutes were available to the public as she thinks we need to get the word out about the things that CPAC is working on. Cameron suggested adding a link to the minutes in the newsletter. Mary Pat noted that the minutes are featured on the CPAC website in the 'About CPAC' section, but that she would work to make them more visible on the site and promote them more to the public.

Hearing no other discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.